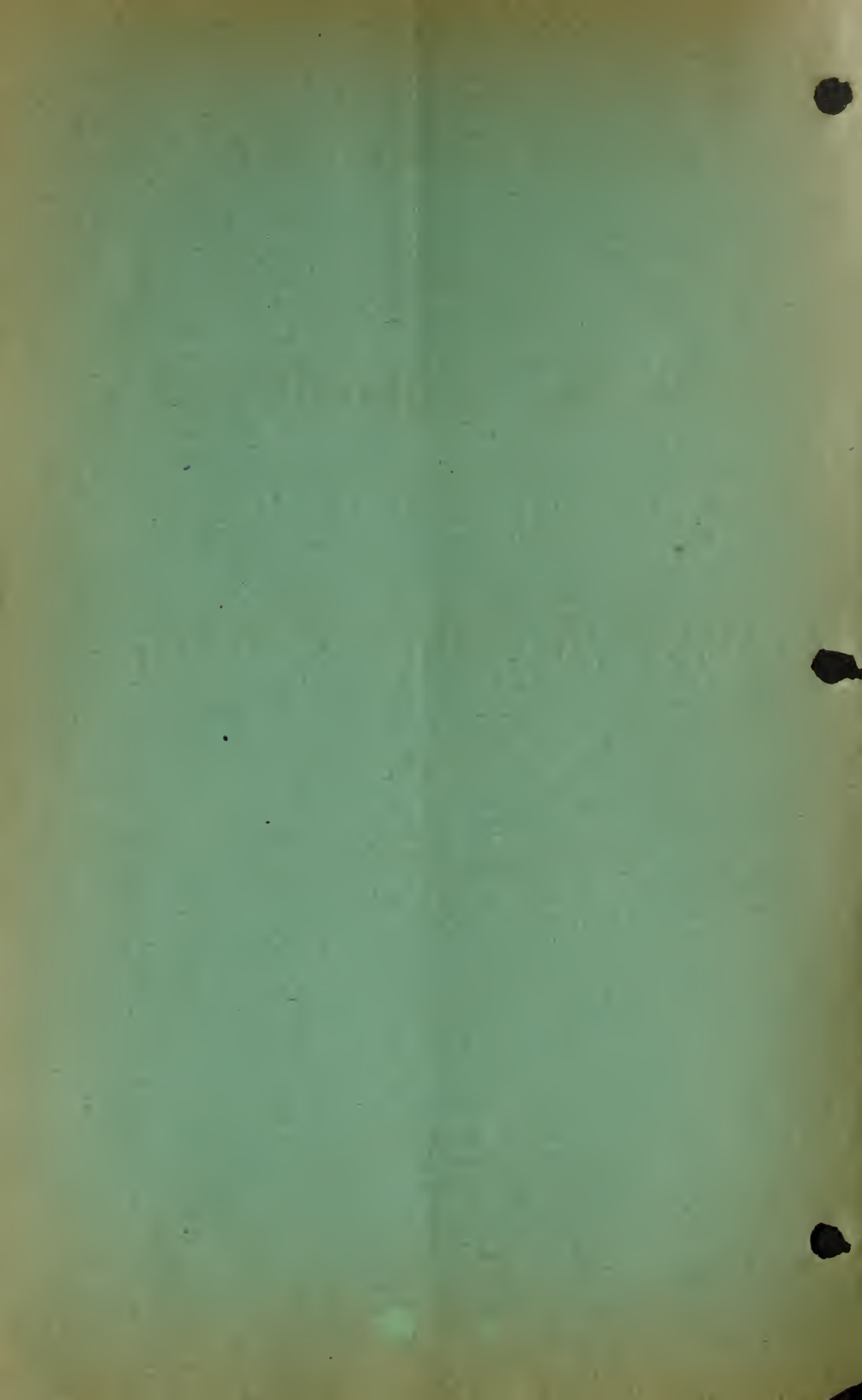

WILLIAMSBURG, MASS.

SCHOOL REPORT.

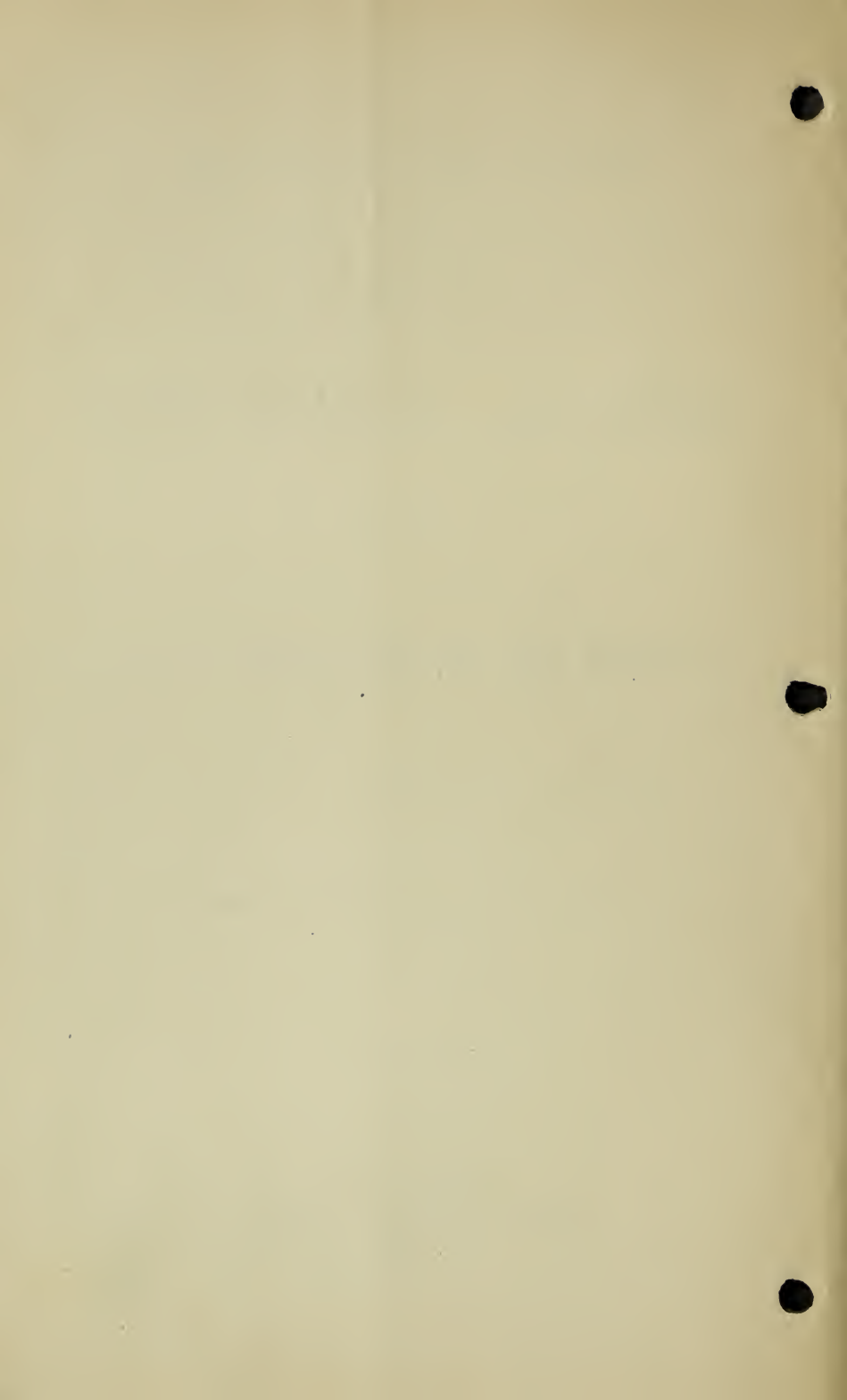
1893. 1892



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1893.



NORTHAMPTON, MASS.:
GAZETTE PRINTING COMPANY.
1893.



REPORT.

Citizens of Williamsburg :

The School Committee ask your careful perusal of their report of schools for the year ending March 1st, 1893, and welcome all candid criticism of the same, believing that only when we reason together can the best results be produced for those in whose behalf we labor.

We shall meet no objection to the statement that our public schools are, and should be, the nucleus around which our common thoughts and interests gather. And no true parent ignores the fact that school influence has a very great part in shaping the mind and character of our children, while every intelligent voter well understands that out from our public schools come the rulers of the land.

Therefore should we give most thoughtful attention to this important matter of educating the young, and endeavor, so far as possible to make our schools equal to the best, in morals, methods and instructors. This will need your co-operation, parents and voters, not alone that you appropriate money generously, as in the past year, but that you make yourselves thoroughly acquainted with our schools, visit them often, inspiring the pupils by your presence with them, and interest for them, and more than this, be inspired yourself, by the knowledge gained thereby, that education has characteristics in common with other things, is susceptible of progress, and feels the same touch of improvement and advance that is so surely felt in other lines of thought and work. Children are being educated to-day in the light of better methods, clearer illustrations and broader

examples. Let us not hinder or stay progress in the line of school work, by clinging to old ways, old methods which have no recommendation to intelligent minds save their antiquity, but rather let us adopt this maxim of progress, "new times demand new measures and new men," and give our children those advantages for which we were born a little too soon. Our best educators have proved the value of methods by large experience, and are holding fast that which is good of the old, seeking for better in the new.

Having adopted the past two years a somewhat changed line of work in the schools, we recommend and cordially invite you to an inspection and criticism of the same.

SCHOOLS.

We have maintained sixteen schools the entire year, with the exception of transporting the pupils from Petticoat Hill to the village, the winter term of ten weeks.

Our schools have all been in session thirty-two weeks. Haydenville schools have had the usual four weeks extra from the income of the Hyde Fund. Here we may properly state the great advantage gained from these extra weeks of schooling, inasmuch as they enable the pupils to finish each study of the course, which is impossible in the less number of weeks. During the past year all pupils of the highest grade have been removed from the out schools into the High School at Williamsburg, and are doing better work there than was possible for them to do in the schools of mixed grades.

For these reasons, namely, time insufficient to finish the studies of the course and the attendance now of the large boys and girls from the out districts at our High School, we would recommend an appropriation sufficient to continue the Williamsburg High School four weeks longer in the winter term when the large boys might be most benefitted.

Our teachers have been exceptionally good—faithful in their efforts—and while some changes will be necessary, we are unable to retain teachers who have larger salaries offered them elsewhere. Hence the frequent changes in a few of the schools.

NEW BUILDINGS, REPAIRS, ETC.

The dividing of the first primary school at Haydenville, necessitated the building of a new school-house for which the sum of \$1000 was appropriated by the town at the last annual meeting. The school board was made a committee to locate and build the same. The building was made ready for the autumn term, and forty pupils were at once enrolled there, leaving about the same number in the old room. The new room is well fitted with modern arrangements for primary work.

The jacketed stove which was put in with no knowledge of its heating and ventilating capacity, other than the high recommendation from those who had used it, has proved more than worth the extra cost, for during the extreme cold weather, with the same amount of fuel, when one of the schools in the Haydenville building was obliged to close, the thermometer did not vary three degrees from 68 in any part of this room.

All rooms requiring new stoves should certainly have the jacketed ones.

The plan of uniting the two districts in the north part of the town has been accomplished, and a neat and attractive school-house builded at a cost of \$600, the Selectmen acting as a building committee. Twelve pupils were enrolled in this school. We have here schooled for two terms the Ford children from Conway, receiving from that town \$23.60 for tuition.

The new building at Haydenville necessitated the services of another teacher, whose salary should be considered when comparing the expenses of this year with last.

Much is needed throughout the town in repairs. All has been done this year that the appropriation admitted of, yet many of our school buildings, especially in Searsville, Nash Street, Mountain Street and Williamsburg Center, need considerable outlay to make them comfortable in winter.

IN GENERAL.

In regard to the transporting of pupils from the out districts to the Center. This seems to us advisable only when the school is decidedly small, and the district gives willing consent so to do. Petticoat Hill pupils have been thus schooled this winter with satisfaction to all and a saving of one-third the cost.

Columbus Day will be a memorable one. With little expense the day was properly observed. Three hundred and fifty of our pupils formed into line and marched in the streets of Haydensville. At the school-house each school in town was represented in the exercises, reflecting great credit both upon teachers and pupils.

Flags have been raised upon Skinnerville, Searsville and North District school-houses with appropriate exercises.

The attendance of the schools is steadily growing better. The pupils who have been neither absent nor tardy during the whole year deserve honorable mention, and we take pleasure in naming them :—Fannie Watson, Harry Drake, Clara Hyde, Anna McCalman, Eddie Hyde, Annie Marks, Harry Warner, Bertha Thrasher, Katie Coogan, George Burke. Nellie Mullaly not absent.

For further statistics see report of Superintendent.

The experience of another year under the present system of school supervision, increases our belief that the Superintendent meets a long-felt need. To him belongs general direction of the schools. His knowledge of methods and text-books enables us by his advice to choose the best.

Under his direction teacher's meetings are held monthly, prolific of much interest and thought on the subject of teaching. Parents and friends are requested to make these meetings theirs, attending them when possible, thus familiarizing themselves with the work of the schools and school superintendent that they may be our kindly critics.

To make much needed repairs, and to continue the High School at Williamsburg four weeks longer, we recommend appropriations as follows :

For Schools,	\$3,300 00
Superintendent,	300 00
Text Books,	300 00
Repairs,	200 00
Extra four weeks,	100 00

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. FANNIE J. CLARY,	} School Committee of Williamsburgs.
E. T. BARRUS,	
W. M. PURRINGTON,	

Superintendent's Report.

To the School Committee of Williamsburg:

The fourth annual report of the public schools is herewith respectfully presented. The past year's work in the entire district may fairly be considered as quite satisfactory and profitable, all accompanying circumstances being given due weight.

This does not mean that it has been perfect, or without occasion for just criticism. The good effects of the systematic course adopted, are much more conspicuous than before, and the promise of still better results in the future, is good. To one who has regularly visited the schools during the past two years, the improvement in many directions is very evident and gratifying. The Superintendent desires to express to the committee which has so efficiently and heartily assisted him, and to the citizens who have so generously aided and co-operated with them, his sincere thanks for the sympathy and support which have made these improvements possible.

The following table contains statistics of general interest:

SCHOOL.	No. of Weeks.	Boys Enrolled.	Girls Enrolled.	Pupils Registered	Total Attendance in Days.	Av. Membership.	Av. Attendance.	Per cent. of Attendance.	Tardiness.	Visitors.	No. of Pupils not Absent.
High,	32	7	17	37	3193.5	22.22	20.20	90.91	386	27	2
Intermediate,	32	12	18	37	3185.5	21.39	19.91	93.03	268	39	1
Primary,	32	9	17	28	2638.5	18.04	16.56	91.79	83	38	0
Searsville,	32	16	16	32	3566	23.57	22.23	94.32	34	102	3
Skinnaville,	34	9	13	22	2391.5	14.59	13.79	94.52	58	33	0
Petticoat Hill,	22	4	5	9	610	6.90	5.57	80.73	67	10	0
North Street,	32	7	10	17	1228.5	8.16	7.19	86.89	68	29	0
Nash Street,	31	8	10	20	2183.5	15.31	13.55	88.50	92	35	0
South Street,	32	4	5	9	1215	8.68	6.88	79.26	30	27	1
Mountain Street,	32	5	10	16	2070	14.36	13.02	90.67	88	52	1
<i>Haydenville.</i>											
High,	36	18	14	32	4317	26.84	24.38	90.83	312	31	0
Grammar,	36	16	13	48	5563	36.42	31.91	87.62	433	48	1
Intermediate,	35	24	18	59	5598	37.07	32.16	86.75	865	45	1
Second Primary,	36	26	17	63	6189.5	38.60	34.70	89.90	535	37	1
Maple St. Prim'y	35	34	27	62	5829	38.76	33.93	87.54	281	53	0
Purrington Prim.	36	26	22	48	5742	36.41	32.33	88.79	268	30	0
Total,	525	225	232	539	55520.5				3868	636	11

No. of tardy marks per pupil, $8\frac{1}{2}$. Expense per pupil for schooling and supplies, by towns : Williamsburg, \$8.77; Conway, \$11.83 ; Sunderland, \$16.33 ; Whately, \$9.09.

Cost of supplies per pupil, by towns, (Reports of 1892.) Williamsburg, \$.72 ; Conway, \$1.72 ; Sunderland, \$2.20 ; Whately, \$1.42.

THE WORK.

The work in the Schools of the town has been continued along the previously established lines for the most part.

It has been the constant aim to impress upon the teachers yet more fully the great truths that the object of our schools is to develop and strengthen the intellectual powers of the scholars, to produce thoughtful, self-reliant, ingenious, observing students, and prepare them for valuable and patriotic citizenship ; that the duty of the teacher is to direct and train the mental and moral capacity of the pupil, encourage originality, promote observation, legitimate investigation and thought, and that the success of his work is to be judged not by the amount of geographical or arithmetical information gathered by the child, but by the broadness, helpfulness and progressiveness of the life made possible to the scholar by the teacher's training ; that the power to acquire knowledge and not knowledge itself is the measure of an education.

As a rule, these truths are accepted and appreciated so that we find our methods of instruction surely attaining to a higher, more rational plane. It is not the intention of this report to describe in detail the methods of instruction employed in the schools ; it may be sufficient to say that those pronounced best by educators fully capable of judging, have been adapted to our work as far as possible, and generally employed.

A decided effort to improve the manual execution of all written work of the scholars was made during the year, and the result is good. The examination and other written papers now passed in are greatly superior to those of the preceding year. Neatness of work, neatness of person, neatness of surroundings have been insisted upon in most schools, and have proved efficient aids to careful, systematic work. In many schools there

has been a pleasing growth of gentlemanly and ladylike conduct due to the possession of these qualities by the teachers, and the increased self-respect of the child. The clay work has proved a marked success, the teachers took hold of it with interest, and the younger pupils observe much more carefully, think more, and do neater work because of it, while in some cases positive artistic talent is manifested. The drawing is not so decidedly successful owing to the lack of elementary instruction among the older scholars, and the need of instruction on the part of many teachers. That drawing is a valuable and necessary aid in education is generally conceded, and as our younger pupils now at work in the elements, progress, its worth will become more and more apparent. There is need of more systematic and thorough instruction in language and penmanship. Satisfactory results in these will not be obtained until teachers insist on the use of correct language in all school work, and a proper position in all written exercises.

MUSIC.

Lessons in vocal music have been given regularly in the Haydenville schools by Miss Upton, with good results. It is evident that instruction in music possesses a considerable educational value outside the actual knowledge of the art imparted, and it would be well if it could be introduced in all village schools, at least.

TEACHERS.

Williamsburg has had continued good fortune in securing and retaining good teachers. But few changes have been made, consequently the schools have made more steady progress than in any other town of the district. It is a serious drawback to the town that it is not able to offer equal inducements with neighboring towns in the matter of salaries, as we are in danger of losing our best teachers at any time. It is to be hoped that some time this difficulty may be overcome. The wide-awake, energetic and intellectual appearance of our corps of teachers is often remarked.

THE SCHOOLS.

The good effects of a systematic course of study are more than usually obvious in the constant accession to the number in our high schools, from the out districts. The work in the out schools has kept pace with that in the central ones, and we now find some of our best scholars in them. It was thought best, at the beginning of the year, to hold back the classes somewhat, in order that the course might be more closely followed, and the result be made more satisfactory ; it will be disappointing if the scholarship of the graduates is not greatly improved by this. The Williamsburg village schools have increased in numbers considerably, and are now in good condition. The work in all the grades is undoubtedly good.

The Haydenville schools are also larger, and, as a rule, the progress of the scholars good. The division of the First primary grade has proved beneficial to all concerned.

ATTENDANCE.

Although much that was said in the last report with reference to attendance still remains true, yet a comparison of statistics will show a gratifying improvement. Evidently, the increased interest of the scholars in their studies has assisted in bringing about this desirable result.

TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

Teachers' meetings have been held regularly and have been of great assistance. The attendance on them is almost perfect, but very few teachers having been absent. The teachers by meeting with each other have been able to gain new ideas, to profit by other experiences, to be of mutual assistance in many ways. They have taken the larger part in the exercises, and the able discussions and papers by them have made the meetings interesting and valuable. Any person interested in our schools would find these gatherings pleasing and profitable. Rev. Mr. Snyder has kindly addressed the teachers and given them much advice and instruction of sterling worth. If parents and others would attend these meetings, they would be able to assist the

children in the home to a considerable extent, and that in conformity with the methods employed in the schools, thus avoiding all danger of confusing the mind of the pupil, and of retarding his progress in his class, as sometimes happens when different methods are used.

Mr. Sargent, State Supervisor of Drawing for Western Massachusetts, has met the teachers in all towns of the district and given them valuable instruction. State Agents Bailey and Fletcher held a meeting at Haydenville during the first of the year. Several of our teachers attended the Laurel Park Institute and were greatly benefitted thereby.

BUILDINGS.

The town has reason for pride in the new school buildings recently erected at Haydenville and North Street. The former is a model in its way. Mr. Purrington was the chief designer, and assisted by the other members of the committee, has secured a building, that at the same expense, is not equalled in the district and probably not in the county.

The prime considerations in its construction were ventilation, heating, sanitation, lighting and convenience. All these have been secured quite satisfactorily. During the recent extremely cold weather, when no other room in the district was thoroughly comfortable, no difficulty was experienced in keeping this so, and the variation in temperature in different parts of the room was confined to three or four degrees, while the air was uniformly pure. When our school-houses in the out districts are replaced by such as this, there will be a noticeable improvement in attendance and interest. The house in the North part, so long needed, is constructed on the same plan as the one just mentioned, with some slight modifications to adapt it to circumstances.

COLUMBUS DAY.

Appropriate exercises were held in all towns in the district on Columbus Day, teachers and pupils taking parts in a commendable manner.

The procession of school children at Haydenville, must have deeply impressed our citizens with a sense of the responsibility resting upon them in the educating and preparing of so many children for useful citizenship. These exercises and the preparation of them served to engender more real patriotism in the schools than before in a long time.

Flags have been placed upon several school buildings in the district, as a result of the combined efforts of teachers and pupils. This town has the largest number. Nearly every school-room in the district is decorated with the national colors. There should be a flag on every school-house, and it is to be hoped that there may be soon.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

The severely cold weather experienced during the winter term has most decidedly demonstrated the utter insufficiency of the present methods of heating and ventilation employed in several school-rooms, notably in the Williamsburg village house, oftentimes nearly half a session was lost because of these, while the teachers and scholars are constantly menaced with danger to health and life. It is strongly recommended that jacketed stoves be placed in these rooms as soon as possible.

It is conceded that more and better results can be obtained by the graded system of schools than otherwise, but, to secure good results from this, the grades must be carefully marked and kept unbroken, therefore a regular system of promotions should be maintained and pupils always placed in classes, while parents and others should heartily co-operate with the school officers in securing promptness and regularity of attendance. Without doubt more or less scholars will miss of promotions because of the negligence of parents in these matters. It is also recommended that children placed in the schools for the first time, be allowed to enter during the fall term only. We have quite good courses of study in our high schools, but it is utterly impossible to complete any satisfactory course in the one at Williamsburg, because of the shortness of the year, and it is recommended that a special appropriation be made for this school in addition to the general one. It is a fact that scholars do more and better work

with pleasant, cheerful surroundings than otherwise, therefore many things needed in the school-room for this purpose are not to be considered as luxuries but as absolute necessities, it is therefore suggested that new curtains and new paint are necessities in some cases just now.

The transporting of the pupils from Petticoat Hill to the central schools has proved beneficial to all; they have received the advantages of class work, superior instruction, with others. It is recommended that this be continued and extended to include South Street, if practicable.

In conclusion it can be said that the present condition of the schools indicate good and diligent labor during the past year, and gives promise of still better results in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. GOODHUE, *Superintendent.*

Report of Truant Officer.

HAYDEVILLE, MASS., Feb. 23, 1893.

To the Hon. School Committee of Williamsburg:

Truants taken to school	10
Sent to school from the streets,	5
Number of families visited,	4

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. SAMPSON, *Truant Officer.*

Treasurer's Report

For the Year ending March 1st, 1893.

RECEIPTS.

Town appropriation for schools,	\$3,300 00	
“ “ “ text books,	300 00	
“ “ “ repairs,	200 00	
“ “ “ superintendent,	300 00	
Income of Collins Fund,	818 39	
“ State School Fund,	368 31	
“ State Superintendency,	201 07	
Received from Hyde Fund,	290 00	
“ “ Dog Tax,	127 16	
“ “ Conway for tuition,	39 20	
“ “ Supplies sold,	6 76	
Balance from 1892,	14 27	
	<hr/>	\$5,965 16

EXPENDITURES.

For Teachers,	\$4,245 00	
Janitors,	200 85	
Cleaning school houses,	28 19	
Fuel,	268 03	
Books and supplies,	415 68	
Furniture, labor, repairs, etc.,	226 19	
Miscellaneous bills,	250 09	
Superintendent,	310 90	
Old bills,	8 00	
Balance Cash on hand,	12 23	
	<hr/>	\$5,965 16

PAID FOR TEACHERS.

Williamsburg High School, F. E. Prichard,	\$437 00	
“ Intermediate, Mary Barrus,	256 00	
“ Primary, Jessie Tarbox,	256 00	
Haydenville High School, Edgar Cass,	504 00	
“ Grammar, Louise Russell,	130 00	
“ “ Ada Baker,	230 00	
“ Intermediate, Ada Baker,	104 00	
“ “ Helen Adams,	184 00	
“ 2d Primary, Annie Fairley,	288 00	
“ 1st Primary, Susie Smith,	91 00	
“ “ Lena Carr,	184 00	
“ “ Alice House,	75 00	
“ “ Lizzie Purrington,	184 00	
Skinnerville, Lena Carr,	78 00	
“ Josephine Courtright,	126 00	
Mountain St., Winifred Church,	66 00	
“ Carrie Field,	18 00	
“ Luna Rice,	108 00	
North District, Viola Crittenden,	181 00	
Searsville, Mary Robinson,	224 00	
Nash St., Hattie Yeomans,	197 00	
South St., Mrs. H. G. Curtis,	192 00	
Petticoat Hill, Helen Adams,	66 00	
“ “ Lizzie Goldthwait,	66 00	
	<hr/>	\$4,245 00

JANITORS.

Haydenville village, 6 rooms,	\$115 10	
Williamsburg “ 3 rooms,	53 25	
Out schools,	32 50	
	<hr/>	\$200 85

CLEANING SCHOOL-HOUSES.

Haydenville village,	\$10 00	
Williamsburg “	9 69	
Out schools,	8 50	
	<hr/>	\$28 19

FUEL.

John Phinney, bill, coal,	\$105 72	
Elijah Heminway, bill, wood,	8 00	
W. W. Nash, " "	18 50	
G. M. Bradford, " "	22 00	
Lewis Alexander, " "	10 00	
C. M. Gillette, " "	9 06	
Pillinger & Lawley, " "	68 75	
Frank Clapp, " "	15 00	
T. Larkin, " "	1 00	
George Warner, " "	10 00	
	<hr/>	\$268 03

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

Amer. Book Co.,	\$78 74	
Geo. Perry,	53 10	
Ginn & Co.,	61 52	
Smith & White,	63 49	
S. E. Bridgman,	17 72	
Silver, Burdette & Co.,	32 03	
D. C. Heath,	34 25	
University Pub. Co.,	30 66	
Prang Edu. Co.,	7 18	
Boston School Supply Co.,	3 60	
Springfield News Co.,	14 55	
Leach, Shewell & Sanborn,	10 50	
Lee & Shepard,	8 34	
	<hr/>	\$415 68

FURNITURE, LABOR, REPAIRS, ETC.

O. D. Case, blackboards,	\$53 70	
O. D. Case, " for new school-house,	24 00	
Vt. Sch. Seat Co., Teacher's desks,	13 00	
" " " " " " for new		
school-house,	8 00	
W. A. Choate, bill for desks,	10 59	
F. M. Holmes, bill,	26 65	
Elbridge Kingsley, "	7 12	

H. W. Sampson,	bill,	\$10 68
W. A. Londergan,	"	16 13
J. D. Ball,	"	2 00
John Williams,	"	1 42
Fred Stebbins,	"	1 25
Williamsburg Mfg. Co.,	"	1 60
Charles Hyde,		40
Frank Ball,		80
C. D. Damon, cartage,		2 25
R Trainer, labor,		60
Roy Purrington,	"	9 95
Frank Hosford,	"	1 50
J. Lambert,	" grading,	10 75
H. Pomeroy,	" "	8 00
S. Packard,	" "	5 00
Geo. Phillips,	" "	3 00
O. Ames,	" "	75
Peter Shea,	" "	7 05
		<hr/>
		\$226 19

MISCELLANEOUS.

Williamsburg Mfg. Co., erasers,	\$3 25
Bryant Bros., bill,	11 10
Haydenville Mfg. Co.,	93
American Crayon Co., bill,	5 60
C. N. Fitts, chairs,	10 50
Window shades,	5 00
Step ladder,	2 40
W. S. Smith, bill,	1 40
A. G. Cone, bill,	2 92
Smith & Fay, bill,	8 72
C. D. Waite, bill,	57
L. S. Bolter, clock,	1 50
J. Hebert, bill,	2 00
Mr. Sawtelle, bill,	1 20
Larkin, rent of rink,	18 00
Recording deed,	75
Holmes' team,	1 50
J. O'Brien,	4 00

John Burr, transporting pupils,	\$15 00	
Conway, schooling Lawley children,	3 00	
Geo. Ames, bill,	52 50	
J. A. Sullivan, bill,	3 95	
Geo. Lawley, bill,	3 00	
Clock and bells,	1 75	
E. T. Barrus, bill,	23 24	
H. G. Chapman, bill,	3 30	
Flags,	3 70	
Pencil sharpener,	2 00	
J. W. Belcher,	1 50	
L. D. James, bill,	2 05	
R. E. Edwards, bill,	3 50	
A. M. Shaw, transporting pupils,	25 00	
Wardrobe hooks,	1 12	
Express and freight,	15 17	
Postage and stationery,	2 00	
H. W. Sampson, bill,	1 67	
Sundries,	5 30	
	<hr/>	\$250 09

SUPERINTENDENT.

Paid E. W. Goodhue, balance for 1892,	\$150 80	
“ “	160 10	
	<hr/>	\$310 90

OLD BILLS.

A. M. Shaw, janitor bill,	\$6 00	
Ernest Warner, “ “	2 00	
	<hr/>	\$8 00

OUTSTANDING BILLS.

Due Supt. E. W. Goodhue, July 1st, 1893,	\$160 10	
John Phinney, bill,	13 50	
E. T. Barrus, bill,	22 03	
Janitors,	4 00	
	<hr/>	

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. FANNIE J. CLARY, *Treas.*

